

Resilience After Terrorism

This year, the United States commemorates the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3000 people in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. People in the United States and around the world have shown resilience and courage in the face of terrorism. Here are some of their stories.



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Author and firefighter Dennis Smith at "ground zero," the site of the World Trade Center, New York City

turn to Providence to explain the inexplicable, and to soothe the uncertainty of future that comes with our history. How can life change so utterly and for so many in so few minutes?

I will go to Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral to remember the loss of 343 from the New York Fire Department. Archbishop Dolan will officiate and condole on this great and collective loss. I will go for a few hours to a small gem of a museum, TRIBUTE, erected to educate the world about the events of 9/11. There I will meet strong people of great character serving as volunteer docents, taking people around Ground Zero and sharing with strangers from around the world the memories of the one they loved and lost as the towers fell.

What is the next milestone date for us to remember 9/11? Is it 11 years? Fifteen? Twenty? It is painful to recognize that, for so many of my friends, the next milestone date will be tomorrow.”

Ordinary Heroism

Jay S. Winuk is co-founder of MyGoodDeed, the nonprofit that successfully advocated for September 11th to become a National Day of Service and Remembrance, in memory of his brother, lawyer Glenn J. Winuk, who died in the World Trade Center attack.

“My brother Glenn J. Winuk died on September 11, 2001, as he had lived — in service to others. He ran from

Turning to Providence for Answers

Dennis Smith served as a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department for 18 years and continues to work as an advocate for firefighters. He has written more than a dozen books, including two about the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001: Report from Ground Zero and A Decade of Hope: Stories of Grief and Endurance from 9/11 Families and Friends.

“The 10th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 is a milestone that will be recognized according to how one internalized the events of that fateful day. It will be a difficult day, especially for 9/11 family members. Every life is sacred, and we mourn, usually painfully, the passing of a loved one. But, it is so hard to lose a loved one in the center of America's greatest tragedy, a brutal and unbelievable event, and to be thrust into a limelight of an unavoidable international recognition. The families, though, will understand that the world has to remember and mourn too, for even after a decade the day still conveys profound feelings of loss and a continued confusion.

I would not feel right in commemorating this day without some manifestation of faith, for it is helpful to



COURTESY OF JAY S. WINUK

U.S. President Barack Obama and Jay Winuk in May, 2011, at the Preview Site of the September 11th Memorial.

his nearby law office and a position of relative safety toward the World Trade Center, into a towering inferno that soon after collapsed.

Glenn was a volunteer firefighter and EMT for almost 20 years. From an early age, this was his passion — to run into dangerous situations to help people in need. My brother was a true American hero, as were countless others who rose up to help on 9/11. Some perished because of their efforts; others survived and have continued to find ways to help others.

How best to properly honor those heroes? Here's one way. At the behest of families of 9/11 victims, the anniversary of September 11 is now widely recognized as a Day of Service and Remembrance, established in the U.S. as such by President Obama and Congress in 2009 and observed worldwide. People participate by visiting our website, www.911day.org, and engaging in some form of good deeds in tribute to those who died in the attacks. This year, for the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we expect the largest outpouring of service in U.S. history.

People from 92 countries perished on 9/11, and the effects of that tragedy are felt worldwide to this day. There is no better tribute to Glenn and all those who died than for all of us to take time on 9/11 to help make the world a better place for those in need.👉

Helping Terrorism's Victims

The Peter C. Alderman Foundation was founded by Liz and Steve Alderman to honor their son who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center, a living memorial to help survivors of conflict around the world.

“On September 11, 2001, our son Peter was murdered while attending a conference at the World Trade Center. He was 25 years old. We wanted to create a memorial that would leave a mark that he had existed and ensure that because he lived for 25 years, the world would be a better place.

While watching “Nightline” some months later, we learned 1 billion people had experienced terrorism or mass violence, but unlike us, had no support to help heal the invisible but paralyzing psychological wounds left by trauma. Many post-conflict countries had almost no resources for mental health. We resolved to help restore people to productive lives.

In 2003, we incorporated the Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF) to heal these invisible wounds. Partnering with government, PCAF has trained more than 1,000 indigenous mental health workers and established six trauma treatment clinics in Uganda and Cambodia. We will soon open a seventh in Liberia. For the past four years, PCAF has held an annual training conference in Africa; in July 2011, more than 600 people from 21 countries gathered in Nairobi, Kenya. We publish the “African Journal of Traumatic Stress” with Makerere University. More than 100,000 people have been treated by PCAF-trained health workers or in PCAF clinics. www.petercaldermanfoundation.org👉



COURTESY OF PETER C. ALDERMAN FOUNDATION

Children at a Peter C. Alderman Clinic in Northern Uganda. The foundation trains indigenous doctors and mental health workers to treat victims of torture, terrorism or mass violence, and provides them jobs at the clinic. **“You can train all the people you want, but if you don’t have a system where they can work, they can easily become ‘boda boda’ (bicycle taxi) drivers,”** says Liz Alderman.



COURTESY OF PETER C. ALDERMAN FOUNDATION

Liz and Steve Alderman founded the Peter C. Alderman Foundation in memory of their son Peter, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001